## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00631 230848Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 /074 W

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P 230800Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3464

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI PRIORITY

JCS/NMCC WASHDC PFIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORVA PRIORITY

CINCLANTFLT NORVA PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0631

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: SUDANESE CONSULAR OFFICIALS' VIEWS

1. ON JULY 22 I HOSTED SUDANESE CONSUL GENERAL, HIS DEPUTY AND DPO AT LUNCH. A NUMBER OF INTERESTING VIEWS SURFACED DURING BASICALLY INFORMAL LUNCHEON. SUDANESE, WHO ARE KNOWN AS ASTUTE AND INFORMED OBSERVERS OF LOCAL SCENE, ESTABLISHED EARLY IN DISCUSSION THEIR SOLIDARITY (STATED AS "BROTHERHOOD") WITH ELF/PLF. THEY EXPRESSED COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL SAFETY OF CISCO TWO AND SAID THEY HAD INDEPENDENTLY CONCLUDED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00631 230848Z

THAT KIDNAPPING WAS FOR PURPOSE OF REPAIR OF ELF TRANSMITTER.

THEY, THEREFORE, EXPECTED AMERICANS TO BE RELEASED UNHARMED, QUITE POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE THAN ASMARA. THEY DID NOT RULE OUT COLLUSION OF KIDNAP VICTIMS, ESPECIALLY TWO ETHIOPIAN (OF ERITREAN ORIGIN) TECHNICIANS, AS SYMPATHIES OF BOTH KIDNAPPED AMERICANS AND ETHIOPIANS ARE KNOWN TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF ELF/PLF.

- 2. THE SUDANESE WERE GREATLY REASSURED AS TO SAFETY OF CISCO TWO BY PRESS STATEMENT OF DAMASCUS ELF REPRESENTATIVE CONCERNING "GOOD HEALTH" OF TWO. THEY ASSUME ANY STATEMENT BY ELF FROM EITHER BEIRUT OR DAMASCUS IS AUTHORITATIVE. THEREFORE THEY ACCEPT DAMASCUS DECLARATION AS DEFINITIVE IN RESPECT TO WELL-BEING OF TWO AMERICANS.
- 3. WHILE I WAS CIRCUMSPECT IN RAISING QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ROLE FOR GOS AS INTERMEDIARY ON RELEASE OF AMERICANS, SUDANESE READILY OFFERED THEIR GOOD OFFICES. NO SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS WERE PUT FORWARD BY EITHER SIDE AS IT WAS AGREED CLEARER PICTURE OF SITUATION WAS FIRST NECESSARY.
- 4. COMMENT: SUDANESE VIEWS ARE PARTICULARLY INTRIGUING AS THEY ARE EXPERIENCED AND INTERESTED OBSERVERS. I BELIEVE THAT THEIR ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE ON SAFETY OF CISCO TWO WORTHY OF ATTENTION.

  SHERRY

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## Message Attributes

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